

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04533 231115Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 AID-05 /052 W
-----101290 232306Z /13-65
R 230435Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 387

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4533

PASS LABOR DEPARTMENT

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB
SUBJECT: VISIT OF AFL-CIO DELEGATION

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1972 A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION FROM THE AFL-CIO VISITED INDIA MARCH 13-20 FOR MEETINGS WITH THEIR INDIAN COUNTERPARTS. THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED VICE PRESIDENTS MARTIN WARD AND J.C. TURNER, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ERNEST LEE, AND AAFI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MORRIS PALADINO, MET WITH THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP OF THE INTUC IN NEW DELHI AND OF THE HMS IN BOMBAY. BOTH INDIAN CONFEDERATIONS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR THEIR VISITORS AND HOSTED DINNERS IN THEIR HONOR. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE VIEWS OF THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONISTS ON THE AFL-CIO VISIT AS COMMUNICATED TO THE LABOR COUNSELOR:

2. INTUC: THE LARGEST NON-COMMUNIST CONFEDERATION SAW THE VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ITS RELATIONS WITH THE AFL-CIO ON A STRENGTHENED, REGULAR BASIS. THE INTUC LEADERS URGED THAT THE AMERICANS RETURN TO THE ICFTU AND THE ILO AND MADE A SPECIAL PITCH FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WHICH WOULD PROMOTED THE CREATION OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. THIS PROPOSAL RECEIVED SPECIAL EM-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 04533 231115Z

PHASIS IN A PAGE ONE ACCOUNT OF THE VISIT IN THE INTUC WEEKLY, "THE INDIAN WORKER", WHICH PRAISED AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY AND CALLED ON HIM TO OFFER HIS LEADERSHIP TO THE NEW ORGANIZATION. (COMMENT: THE INTUC IS UNHAPPY WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE ICFTU, AND ITS CALL FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN PART PROBABLY REFLECTS THAT POSITION.) THE INTUC UNDERTOOK TO PREPARE A PAPER ON ITS PROPOSAL FOR

CONSIDERATION BY THE AFL-CIO.

3. THE QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE FROM AAFI WAS ALSO RAISED WITH THE INTUC LEADERS WHO TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE TIME WAS NOT YET RIPE FOR SUCH A RELATIONSHIP. (COMMENT: IN THE PAST, THE INTUC WAS TOTALLY ADVERSE TO WORKING WITH AAFI. THEIR PRESENT POSTURE REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THE CONFEDERATION WILL HOLD A NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MAY AT WHICH TIME THERE PROBABLY WILL BE A RE-ALIGNMENT OF LEADERS (PRESIDENT BHAGAVATI MAY STEP DOWN) AND THE ORGANIZATION WILL CONSIDER ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES. UNTIL THIS TAKES PLACE, THE QUESTION OF AAFI WILL BE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

4. ALL THE INTUC LEADERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE AFL-CIO VISIT AND THEIR OPINION THAT IT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. THEY LOOK FORWARD TO REGULAR EXCHANGES WITH THE AFL-CIO IN THE FUTURE. (COMMENT: WE ARE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED NOT ONLY BY THE RECEPTION WHICH THE INTUC ACCORDED THE AMERICAN DELEGATION BUT BY ITS WILLINGNESS TO PUBLICIZE IT. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN UNTHINKABLE DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS. COPIES OF THE "INDIAN WORKER" ARE BEING POUCHED TO LABOR AND STATE).

5. HMS: THE AFL-CIO MET WITH THE MAHESH DESAI (GENERAL SECRETARY) FACTION IN BOMBAY. DESAI TOLD US THAT IN HIS OPINION THE VISIT WENT VERY WELL, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SUCH EXCHANGES TAKE PLACE ON A REGULAR BASIS. THE OBSTACLE TO DOING THIS IS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 04533 231115Z

THE HMS LACKS RESOURCES TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE US, AND IT IS NOT CORRECT FOR THE HOSPITALITY TO BE ONE-SIDED. DESAI NOTED THAT HMS EXPECTED TO HOLD ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MAY OR JUNE TO UNITE THE ORGANIZATION WHICH SPLIT OVER THE ISSUE OF SUPPORTING THE INDIRA GANDHI REGIME AND THE EMERGENCY. AFTER THAT TAKES PLACE, THE HMS WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER WORKING WITH AAFI. HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD FAVOR IT.

6. THE AFL-CIO DELEGATION ALSO MET WITH A. N. BUCH, PRESIDENT OF THE TEXTILE LABOUR ASSOCIATION (AHMEDABAD) WHICH HAS BEEN EXPANDING ITS ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF GUJARAT STATE. BUCH URGED THE AFL-CIO TO TREAT HIS ORGANIZATION ON A PAR WITH THE OTHER CONFEDERATIONS. HE TOLD THE LABOR COUNSELOR THAT PROGRAMS WITH AAFI WERE A POSSIBILITY DEPENDING ON HOW THEY WERE STRUCTURED.

7. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF THE AFL-CIO DELEGATION REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROMOTING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE INDIAN AND AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENTS. THE GOOD WILL OF THE INDIANS TOWARD THEIR AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS WAS FURTHER ATTESTED BY THE RECEPTION ACCORDED AMBASSADOR LEONARD WOODCOCK BY THE INTUC. THE AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS IN NEW DELHI TO ATTEND THE LABOR ATTACHES' CONFERENCE, WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AS

PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UAW. THE PROBLEM NOW IS TO
PRESERVE SOME OF THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY THE AFL-CIO
VISIT TO ENSURE THAT THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE INDIAN AND
AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENTS CONTINUES.
GOHEEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE04533
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780129-0275
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780332/aaaabawi.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a8bcd7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3225752
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF AFL-CIO DELEGATION
TAGS: ELAB, US, IN, AFL-CIO, (LEE, ERNESRT), (WARD, MARTIN), (TURNER, J C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8bcd7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014